

REMARKS

Claims 27-36 of the present patent application, which are currently under appeal, are amended herein.

In the Final Office Action mailed June 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 27-29, 31, and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Jones, Jr. et al. (U.S. 4,835,118). The Examiner also rejected claims 30, 32-33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones, Jr. et al. (U.S. 4,835,118) in view of Mehta et al. (U.S. 5,795,627).

Since claims 27-29 and 32-36 have been canceled, the rejection of claims 27-29 and 32-36 is moot.

Since claims 30 and 31 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 17 and 18, respectively, the rejection of claims 30 and 31 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

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